United Nations

Daily Highlights

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F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

♦ Security Council unanimously approves tonight Secretary-General's report on Yugoslavia on establishing the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) for an initial period of 12 months; in addendum to report to the Security Council, the Secretary-General had stated that estimated cost of deploying and maintaining the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia for initial 12-month period would be about $634 million.

♦ "In view of deteriorating situation", Secretary-General announces he is sending Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding and Assistant Secretary-General Kofi Annan to Israel and Lebanon tomorrow, 22 February; urges "restraint by all concerned" in earlier statement today to the Security Council.

♦ The Secretary-General leaves tomorrow, 22 February, for Geneva, where he will be keynote speaker at opening ceremony of the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women on Tuesday, 25 February.

♦ The Security Council decides to refer the application of San Marino for membership in the United Nations to the Committee on the Admission of New Members for consideration; the Committee is expected to take up the item on Monday, 24 February.

♦ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) allocates some $1 million in emergency funds for the 60,000 refugees who have streamed into Bangladesh from Myanmar.

♦ A new multilateral order for cooperation on refugees, migration and humanitarian affairs is emerging, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

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The Security Council tonight unanimously approved the Secretary-General's report on establishing a United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in

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Yugoslavia for an initial period of 12 months, and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to ensure its earliest possible deployment.

In adopting resolution 743 (1992), the Council also requested the Secretary-General "to deploy those elements of the Force which can assist in developing an implementation plan for the earliest possible full deployment of the force, for approval by the Council and a budget which together will maximize the contribution of the Yugoslav parties to offsetting its costs and in all other ways secure the most efficient and cost-effective operation possible."

By this action the Council also demanded that all parties and others concerned take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of the personnel sent by the United Nations and of members of the European Community Monitoring Mission. It called again upon the Yugoslav parties to cooperate fully with the Conference on Yugoslavia in its aim of reaching a political settlement consistent with the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Council urged all the parties and others concerned to comply with the cease-fire arrangements signed at Geneva on 23 November 1991 and at Sarajevo on 2 January 1992, and to cooperate fully and unconditionally with the Secretary-General.

In an addendum to his report to the Security Council on the cost of deploying and maintaining the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General had stated that the estimated cost for the initial 12-month period would be about $634 million. That allows for a force consisting of approximately 13,340 military, 530 police and 519 civilian personnel.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali announced this afternoon that "in view of the deteriorating situation", he was sending Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding and Assistant Secretary-General Kofi Annan to Lebanon and Israel tomorrow, 22 February. Mr. Annan will be joining the Department of Peace-keeping Operations on 1 March.

In a statement made earlier today to the Security Council, Secretary-Ceneral Boutros Boutros-Ghali had emphasized the "urgent need for the restraint by all concerned, which the Security Council called for only two days ago".

The Secretary-General also stated that the Israel Defense Forces, assisted by the de facto forces of the so-called "South Lebanon Army", which had launched an incursion yesterday morning into the UNIFIL area of deployment, had withdrawn this morning "under cover of intense artillery and

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mortar fire". Two UNIFIL soldiers from Fiji had been seriously wounded in the crossfire opposing Israeli and de facto forces, and armed elements resisting their advance, while five others had received light injuries.

Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali went on to say that, on his instructions, Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding had conveyed yesterday to the Permanent Representative of Israel a strong protest on his behalf and had asked that the Israeli and allied forces be withdrawn immediately. The Permanent Representative had stated that the incursion had been launched to stop the firing of missiles at the Israeli towns and villages from southern Lebanon, and that the force would be withdrawn as soon as it had carried out its mission.

In conclusion, the Secretary-General had noted that the Israeli incursion "marks a further turn in the seemingly endless violence in the area" and emphasized the urgent need for the restraint by all concerned.

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The Secretary-General leaves tomorrow, 22 February, for Geneva, where he will be the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony of the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women on Tuesday, 25 February.

The Summit, organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), will bring together the wives of Heads of State and Government from nearly 50 countries, as well as several heads of United Nations and interregional agencies. It will be opened by Queen Fabiola of the Belgians.

While in Geneva, the Secretary-General will also chair a UN inter-agency meeting at which he will introduce Jan Eliasson, his new Emergency Relief Coordinator.

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The Security Council tonight decided to refer the application of San Marino for membership in the United Nations to the Committee on the Admission of new Members for consideration. The Committee is expected to take up this item next Monday, 24 February. If San Marino's application is approved by the Committee, it will go back to the Council immediately, which will then send it to the General Assembly for final approval.

The General Assembly, which was to have met on Friday, 28 February, to consider the application of eight States for United Nations membership, is now scheduled to meet instead on Monday, 2 March. San Marino's application is approved by the Security Council, its bid for membership will also be considered at that time.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today allocated some $1 million in emergency funds for the more than 60,000 refugees who have streamed into Bangladesh from Myanmar. Substantial additional funds are expected to be allocated by UNHCR after a technical mission submits a more detailed report of what is urgently needed. There will then be an appeal to donors.

At Headquarters last night, the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh handed the Secretary-General a letter from his Foreign Minister requesting the Secretary-General's good offices and assistance with regard to the refugees. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali is scheduled to meet with the High Commissioner, Sadako Ogata, while he is in Geneva next week, to discuss humanitarian aspects of the matter.

The UNHCR technical mission currently inspecting a string of encampments on the Bangladesh border reported that refugees were streaming into the country at a rate of 1,000 a day. Unless conditions improved in Myanmar, according to a report from UNHCR, those numbers were expected to increase.

The leader of the technical mission, Patrick de Souza, said, "The number of arrivals is overwhelming. There's very little food. Sanitation in bad. There's malnutrition, especially among the women and children."
Marino for membership in the United Nations.

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A new multilateral order for cooperation on refugees, migration and humanitarian affairs is emerging, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata. Addressing the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva this morning, she said that preventive protection strategies - meaning the avoidance of circumstances that forced people to leave - could and should be pursued long before people begin to flee. Such measures would obviate their need for flight.

She was speaking as the Commission continued its deliberations on the violation of human rights around the world. Mrs. Ogata pointed out that although armed conflict was the immediate cause of most refugee movements today, human rights violations, combined with severe economic deprivations, usually lay at the root of such conflicts. It needed to be recognized, she said, that such violations were a major factor of coerced many departures, and that preventing them was the best protection for refugees.

The challenge, she emphasized, was to turn this recognition into a practical strategy.

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CORRECTION: In the Daily Press Briefing of 13 February, the fifth paragraph of the story on the Secretary-General's recommendations for a United Nations peace-keeping operation in Yugoslavia should have read as follows:

In reply to correspondents' questions about the troop composition, the Spokesman said that Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding had met today with some 30 potential contributors.

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